



CONGRESSMAN
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Congressional District



LEGISLATION

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The Military Spouse Employment Act of 2018

Section 1: SHORT TITLE.

- The title of this bill is the “Military Spouse Employment Act of 2018.”

Section 2: EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR NONCOMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS OF MILITARY SPOUSES BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

- Expands federal agency heads’ existing non-competitive appointment authority to include *all* active duty spouses

Section 3: REPORT ON MECHANISMS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTS OF FIRMS WITH PROGRAMS TO EMPLOY MILITARY SPOUSES.

- Requires Secretary of Defense to recommend steps to increase participation in Department of Defense (DoD) contracts of businesses that employ military spouses.

Section 4: IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES.

- Directs Department of Defense to ensure that military spouses eligible to participate in My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) program are made aware of both their eligibility and available benefits, including through targeted digital advertising efforts and training for on-base career counselors.
- Requires Department of Defense to report on military spouses’ awareness of / participation in MyCAA, and to recommend steps to increase utilization.
- Requires Secretary of Defense to provide proposal to expand specialized coaching modules within DoD’s Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) program.

Section 5: MILITARY FAMILY CHILD CARE MATTERS.

- Provides for issuance of provisional or interim clearances for military childcare providers, who would be appropriately supervised prior to receipt of final clearance to provide care.
- Requires Secretary of Defense to assess whether changes to childcare subsidy cap policies could increase availability of off-installation childcare services for military families.

Section 6: EXPANSION OF PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF MILITARY ONESOURCE PROGRAM FOR RETIRED AND DISCHARGED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

- Ensures eligible retiring servicemembers and family members enjoy access to Military OneSource program for full year, and mandates active steps to inform military and veteran families of benefits available through that program.

Section 7: TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY SPOUSES.

- Requires federal government to create new “program of counseling, assistance, help, and related information and services” for military spouses as their spouses transition to civilian life.
- Requires that military spouses be allowed to participate alongside their spouses in transition assistance programs for servicemembers, when beneficial.

Section 8: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS ON HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND MORALE OF MILITARY FAMILIES.

- Requires Secretary of Defense to propose military participation in one or more public-private partnerships to “enhance the health, safety, welfare, and morale of military families.”

Section 9: SMALL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES OF MILITARY SPOUSES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

- Requires Secretary of Defense to assess potential for on-base small business opportunities for military spouses.

Section 10: REPORT ON ASSESSMENT OF FREQUENCY OF PERMANENT CHANGES OF STATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON EMPLOYMENT AMONG MILITARY SPOUSES.

- Requires Secretary of Defense to report on, and make recommendations regarding, effects of permanent changes of station on military spousal employment and effects of spousal unemployment and underemployment on military readiness.

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